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Chief, Intelligence School

6 August 1965

Chief, Intelligence Orientation Faculty

Special Course for Senior Officer School Candidates -
Summary and Comments

1. The second annual special course for those selected to attend the senior schools in FY 1966 was held in Room 803, 1000 Glebe, from 19 - 22 July 1965. Nineteen Agency personnel attended.

2. Both the staff and the students felt that the course undoubtedly met its major objectives and that it should be continued. Specific suggestions and comments are listed in later paragraphs.

3. Course Content. The balance between lectures and student participation (conference techniques, group methods) seem to be about right. Many of those attending were recently back from field assignments, and appreciated the opportunity of learning about the many changes in the intelligence community and the Agency which have taken place in recent years. To some, of course, this was "old hat," particularly to those who had taken the Intelligence Review recently. I think a half-day less on organization, and a half-day more on conference techniques might provide an even better balance. Continued emphasis should also be placed on how to answer questions about the Agency's role and mission.

4. Panel of Former Graduates. This was a generally successful exercise. We were fortunately able to obtain a representative from each of the senior schools who had graduated in either 1964 or 1965, which made the presentations timely and meaningful. Next time, however, I would eliminate formal presentations by each panelist, as they tend to get somewhat repetitious. I would arrange for specific meetings between each candidate and his counterpart graduate, and follow it up with a general question - answer period using all panelists.

5. Social Gathering. This turned out to be a successful affair, particularly in terms of affording wives an opportunity to talk about the personal aspects of "life at the War Colleges." More wives of both students and former graduates should be encouraged to attend.

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6. General student reaction.

a. The majority felt the presentation of Mr. Kirkpatrick, and the sessions on conference techniques and group action were the most valuable portions of the course.

b. Some felt that there was a bit too much emphasis on organizational material. This was particularly true of those who had recently taken a course such as the Intelligence Review or Clandestine Services Review.

c. There was some feeling that the course should be scheduled earlier in the summer. At least two of the students were leaving for War College assignments within a week and were naturally quite preoccupied with personal matters.

7. Recommendations for the future.

a. This course should definitely be continued. Depending upon the backgrounds of the students, it might be reduced from three and one-half to three days, streamlining some of the organizational material. This should not be cut back too much, however. The ability to discuss Agency activity in depth is highly important for many of these assignments.

b. The sessions on conference and group techniques should be continued, with about the same amount of time devoted to them. Messrs. [REDACTED] both did fine jobs and should be used again.

c. The panel session should be streamlined as indicated in Paragraph 4.

d. If feasible for the field returnees, I would recommend that the course be scheduled three or four weeks earlier next summer. This would allow ample time for each student to follow up individually on areas or problems brought to his attention during the course, before going off to school.

8. My thanks to [REDACTED] for their fine participation and support in what has proven to be a successful and worthwhile program.

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